[President.]

honourable members of this House might use their powers of persuasion to see that rags and old papers are preserved and not thrown aside; and steps may have to be taken to get these rags for a nominal compensation. There are already a large number of agencies going round each house here collecting rags and old papers.

Copper coins.

12. ***Sahib Bahadur Abdul Tayeb Shaikh Kaderbhoy** (*Commerce and Industry, South*) : Will the Government be pleased to state whether there is any such rule for the Divisional Treasuries "that not more than ten rupees worth of copper coins can be issued in a single day in exchange"?

Mr. A. Lakshminarayana Ayyar (*Financial Secretary to Government*) : The maximum amount of copper coins that may be issued to any person from any Treasury on a single day has been limited to Rs. 10 as a temporary measure, in view of the scarcity of copper coins at the present time. The Accountant-General has, however, been authorised to relax the limit in individual cases for special recorded reasons.

Taxes for assigned lands.

13. ***Mr. V. Sankara Menon** : Will the Government be pleased to state whether the Cardamom Rules did not permit assignments on payment of a concessional tax of Rs. 1 1/2 per acre in case of occupation of lands with Government permission and on payment of enhanced tax of Rs. 3 per acre in the case of occupation without such permission ?

Mr. K. Kunjan Pillai : Yes

Mr. V. Sankara Menon : May I know whether at the time the rules were passed, Government have encouraged the occupation even without permission ?

Mr. K. Kunjan Pillai : No Sir, Government have never encouraged unauthorised occupations.

President : Does the honourable member mean that people were requested by Government to encroach upon the lands ?

Mr. V. Sankara Menon : Government allowed certain acreage in certain pakuthies.

President : And asked people to enter them ?

Mr. V. Sankara Menon : To cultivate the lands.

President : Lands belonging to whom ?

Mr. V. Sankara Menon : Belonging to Government certainly.

President : What right had they to cultivate an inch more than what they paid for ?

Mr. V. Sankara Menon : The land was not surveyed then.

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President : Why did they cultivate at all then ?

License for sale of food stuff in Munnar..

14. ***Mr. James Fletcher** (*Kalkulam and Vilavankod cum Neyyattinkara*) : Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) how many merchants from Munnar, Devicolam taluk, applied for license for the sale of food stuffs ;

(b) whether a few of them applied for license so early as in Mithunam 1117 ;

(*c*) whether no merchant has received the license (for sale of food stuffs) in Munnar till the end of Vrischigom 1118; and

(*d*) whether there is any special reason for this inordinate delay ?

Mr. K. R. Narayana Aiyar (*Additional Secretary to Government*) : (*a*) 31.

(b) Yes.

(*c*) 11 of the applicants have received licenses.

(*d*) No.

Mr. James Fletcher : May I know whether merchants had to come to Trivandrum for their licenses or whether the licenses were sent to the applicants from the distant parts of Travancore?

Mr. K. R. Narayana Aiyar : If the applications are filled in properly, the licenses are sent to the applicants. It is not necessary that they should come to Trivandrum.

Rice production in the latter half of 1118.

15. ***Mr. James Fletcher** : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) the estimated production of rice in the State during the 2nd half of the year 1118 ;

(b) the approximate quantity normally required for consumption during the 2nd half of the year 1118: and

(*c*) the steps taken to make up the deficit ?

Mr. K. R. Narayana Aiyar : (*a*) Owing to unseasonal rains and heavy floods the estimated production of rice in the State during the second half of 1118 M. E. is 1,10,000 tons.

(*b*) About 3,09,000 tons.

(*c*) Every endeavour is being made to obtain supplies from outside the State to meet the deficit and to increase the out-turn of food crops within the State.

Mr. James Fletcher : In answer to part (c) of the question it is stated "Every endeavour is being made to obtain supplies from outside the State to meet the deficit and to increase the out-turn of food crops in the State." May I know whether Government have got sufficient reserve for a few months more ?

President : No. I may announce that even those supplies are not likely to come.

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